

Message Text

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13

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 SCI-06 AEC-11 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00

PM-09 H-02 L-03 NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

IO-12 RSR-01 NIC-01 /155 W

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R 110611 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0911

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

CINCPACREP CANBERRA

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, PFOR, FR, AS

SUBJ: AUSTRALIAN UNION BAN ON FRENCH SHIPPING, AIRLINES,
PRODUCTS

AND COMMUNICATIONS

1. AUSTRALIAN PRESS REPORTS THAT AT MEETING OF 35 MAJOR INDUSTRIAL UNIONS IN MELBOURNE MAY 10, IT WAS DECIDED TO RECOMMEND THAT ALL AUSTRALIAN TRADE UNIONS BAN FRENCH SHIPPING, AIRLINES, PRODUCTS, AND COMMUNICATIONS, BEGINNING NEXT WEEK. ACTION IS IN PROTEST AGAINST CONTINUED FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTING. RECOMMENDATION BY MEETING WILL BE CONSIDERED BY ACTU EXECUTIVE MEETING NEXT WEEK, BUT IT IS EXPECTED THAT EXECUTIVE WILL APPROVE IT.

2. IN REPORTING TO PRESS RECOMMENDATION TO ACTU EXECUTIVE, ACTU PRESIDENT R. J. HAWKE NOTED THAT PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM HAD ASKED UNIONS TO LEAVE COMMUNICATIONS AREA ALONE IN VIEW OF GOVERNMENT'S APPROACH TO INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE ON
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FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTING. HAWKE SAID, QTE HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE FRENCH HAVE ALREADY INDICATED THEIR CONTEMPT FOR THE COURT, THE UNIONS FEEL THE ONLY FORM OF ACTION TO STOP FRANCE IS INDUSTRIAL ACTION. WE ARE NOT TOOLS OF THE GOVERNMENT, AND THE PRIME MINISTER IS QUITE FREE TO SAY WHAT HE LIKES. IN THE SAME WAY, HE HAS NOT GOT THE POWER TO TELL US WHAT TO DO. I UNDERSTAND MR. WHITLAM'S REASONING WITHOUT ACCEPTING IT. END QTE.

3. COMMENT: RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY 35 UNIONS ATTENDING MEETING STATES BAN ON FRENCH SERVICES AND PRODUCTS WILL REMAIN IN OPERATION UNTIL ENTIRE NUCLEAR TESTING PROGRAM IS ABANDONED. PROBLEM FOR GOA WILL BE TO ENSURE THAT PRESSURES WILL NOT BECOME UNMANAGEABLE TO GO FURTHER AND BREAK DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH FRANCE. GOA CLEARLY HAS TIGER BY THE TAIL IN OPPOSITION TO NUCLEAR TESTING BY FRANCE AND WILL PROBABLY BE UNABLE TO CONTROL ITS FURTHER ACTIONS ON ISSUE. WHILE THERE IS SOME OPPOSITION TO FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTS, ON BEHALF OF ALL MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES, WE DO NOT HAVE IMPRESSION THAT MOST AUSTRALIANS CONSIDER THIS PARTICULARLY MAJOR ISSUE. SMALL GROUP OF DETERMINED OPPONENTS OF FRENCH TESTS, IN UNIVERSITIES, IN MEDIA, AND IN TRADE UNIONS HAVE BEEN CALLING THE SHOTS ON THIS MATTER. RICE

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